

## **I. Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims**

1-66 (Cancelled).

67. (Currently Amended) A quality control material ~~that is not supplemented with bilirubin~~ comprising, one or more substances that mimic two or more analytes in a sample selected from the group consisting of plasma, serum, synovial fluid, cerebrospinal fluid, urine, mucus, lymphatic fluid, feces, semen, ~~milk, cheese, cottage cheese, yogurt, ice cream, wine, beverages, semi-solid foods, soft solid foods,~~ and any combination thereof, ~~the quality control material being stabilized, wherein the one or more than one substances do not mimic themselves.~~

68. (Cancelled).

69. (Previously Presented) The quality control material of claim 67, wherein one of said two or more analytes is an indicator of hemolysis, wherein said indicator of hemolysis is one of total Hb, oxy-Hb or "total Hb minus met-Hb".

70. (Currently Amended) The quality control material of claim 69, wherein said one or more substances are selected from the group consisting of amaranth, acid fuchsin, basic fuchsin, ponceau S, chromotrope 2R, phenol red, crystal ponceau, methyl orange, a Hb-based blood substitute, ~~total Hb, oxy-Hb, carboxy-Hb,~~ cyanmet-Hb, a polymer, and a protein.

71-78 (Cancelled).

79. (Currently Amended) The quality control material of claim 67 wherein said two or more analytes ~~area~~ are selected from the group consisting of an indicator of hemolysis, biliverdin, bilirubin, methylene blue, met-Hb, a simulator of turbidity, a blood substitute that is a milky-white emulsion and, a Hb-based blood substitute.

80. (Previously Presented) The quality control material of claim 79 wherein said indicator of hemolysis is selected from the group consisting of total Hb, oxy-Hb and "total Hb minus met-Hb."

81. (Cancelled).

82. (Currently Amended) The quality control material of claim ~~67~~ 69, wherein said ~~one or more substances mimics an~~ indicator of hemolysis, ~~wherein said substance~~ is selected from the group consisting of total-Hb and oxy-Hb, wherein said oxy-Hb accounts for about 95% of total Hb, or said total-Hb comprises about 95% oxy-Hb, ~~and wherein said quality control material is exposed to atmospheric conditions.~~

83 - 97 (Cancelled).

98. (Currently Amended) The quality control material of claim 67, wherein said one or more substances exhibits a one or more negative slope in the absorbance spectrum for a continuous spectral segment of about 5nm to about 400nm, within the wavelength range of about 450nm to about 3000nm.

99. (Previously Presented) The quality control material of claim 67, wherein said two or more analytes produce absorbances within the wavelength range of about 450nm to about 3000nm.

100. (Currently Amended) The quality control material of claim 67, wherein said one or more substances are selected from the group consisting of methyl orange, phenol red, basic fuchsin, acid fuchsin, crystal ponceau, amaranth, ponceau S, chromotrope 2R, malachite green, brilliant

green, toluidine blue O, evans blue, methylene blue, crystal violet, copper sulfate, ~~total Hb, oxy-~~  
~~Hb~~, carboxy-Hb, cyanmet-Hb, a lipid emulsion, a blood substitute that is a milky-white  
emulsion, a Hb-based blood substitute, a polymer, a protein, and any combination thereof.

101. (Cancelled).